



February 2018

‘Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans.’

Proverbs 16v3

New Zealand

Thursday 1 February

Our Youth Advocates and Gillian Whitley, Executive Director, have returned safely from their 2 week mission trip to Nepal. Praise God for a fruitful experience and for His protection over them. Pray for successful fundraising initiatives and that Youth Advocates will actively share their life-changing experiences from the trip to churches and community groups. Pray that their voice will be heard that funds and awareness

Friday 2 February

Give thanks to our valuable volunteers who contribute many hours a week to assist with our office administration work. They play a vital role in the Leprosy Mission's work by allowing our office to run a little more smoothly and we are blessed by their help.

Saturday 3 February / Sunday 4 February

The founder of the Leprosy Mission, Wellesley Bailey, spoke of the organisation as being 'born and

cradled in prayer'. We believe this statement still holds true. Praise for the thousands of prayers that are regularly offered by New Zealanders to the Lord on behalf of people affected by leprosy.

Leprosy and Stigma

Monday 5 February

In some of the countries where The Leprosy Mission works, the myths around leprosy and fear of rejection by family and friends can prevent people coming forward for diagnosis and treatment, putting them at higher risk of nerve damage and disability. Therefore, the Leprosy Mission strives to ensure timely access to quality services that result in improved outcomes for leprosy-affected people. Pray that marginalised people realise their worth and are empowered to overcome challenges, and are not fearful in coming forward to Leprosy Mission clinics to seek help.

Tuesday 6 February

People affected by leprosy often say that the most damaging aspects of the disease are the stigma and social exclusion they experience. LMNZ works in partnership with local organisations in speaking out against the myths and misunderstandings that lead to exclusion. Pray that their voice can reach the wider community, myths will be dispelled and leprosy-affected people can live with hope and dignity.

Wednesday 7 February

People affected by leprosy are often ostracised and prevented from accessing community resources and are excluded from festivals and community gatherings. They are denied education and employment. Pray that through the work of LMNZ, the social stigma and discrimination of leprosy can come to an end and leprosy-affected people can be accepted back into their communities and have access to their rights.

Thursday 8 February

LMNZ's Chittagong People-led Development Project aims to improve the life of people affected by leprosy socially and economically through self-help groups. Self-help groups operate like families, giving leprosy-affected people the love and support they need to get back on their feet. Through these groups, we also tackle poverty by providing loans to people affected by

leprosy. This enables them to set up their own businesses, and generate much needed income. Pray that the project can bring lasting impact to leprosy-affected communities, and empower them for the rest of their lives.

Friday 9 February

LMNZ has projects which advocate for the rights of leprosy-affected people and aims to reduce the physical and social barriers that they face. Praise God for the success of self-help groups in Bangladesh. There is a growing sense of dignity and self-worth amongst members as they receive wider acceptance from the community. Their confidence has helped them confront and overcome stigma existing in the wider community.

Saturday 10 February / Sunday 11 February

The Global Leprosy Strategy 2016-2020, endorsed by the World Health Organisation and organisations like the Leprosy Mission, calls on governments to repeal legislation that discriminates against people affected by leprosy. Pray for God's wisdom and guidance for all TLM countries in Asia and Africa, as they work out strategies and projects to influence governments for change. Praise God for the successes to date.

Education and Advocacy

Monday 12 February

Remember Pradeep Bagival today. Pradeep is one year into his role as The Head of Advocacy of the Leprosy Mission International. He has extensive international experience working as an advisor to governments and civil society organisations. Give thanks for his expertise and his heart for people affected by leprosy. Pray that Pradeep can continue to strengthen the collective voice of leprosy-affected people.

Tuesday 13 February

Leprosy is an ancient disease and one that is steeped in myths. To this day people who are affected by it continue to be shunned by their families and communities due to the stigma around the disease. In many countries, there are still discriminatory laws against people affected by leprosy. Pray for God's guidance and provision that He will lead the Leprosy

Mission in tackling stigma and discrimination towards leprosy; and an end to discriminatory laws.

Wednesday 14 February

The Leprosy Mission undertakes advocacy to ensure basic human rights, including an education, are available to all people regardless of their ability, background or gender. Pray that TLM advocacy skills training workshops can run smoothly for community leaders and educate leprosy-affected people about their rights, empower them to challenge injustice and access their entitlements.

Thursday 15 February

Leprosy-affected people are most empowered when they are accepted back into their communities with a sense of pride, dignity and self-worth. All of TLM projects have a strong education component and aim to bring communities together to learn about the causes and consequences of leprosy. Pray that through education, the myths surrounding leprosy can be dispelled, and people affected by leprosy can build strong and inclusive families and communities.

Friday 16 February

Education is a vital way of bringing economic and social change to communities affected by leprosy, stigma and poverty. It opens up possibilities and opportunities and gives back the social standing that leprosy may have stolen. The Vocational Training Centre in Faizabad offers a range of courses including computing, electronics, car mechanics and sewing. Pray for God's wisdom and guidance as students go through their training. Pray that they can use their newfound skills to find work or to set up their own business.

Saturday 17 February / Sunday 18 February

An education is the most valuable asset a young person can attain. LMNZ's 'Catch Them Young' Programme in India gives children from leprosy affected families the opportunity to receive an education by paying all expenses related to their learning. Pray for God's blessings on these children that they will be diligent in their studies and be able to access better quality education, especially higher education.

PNG and Bougainville

Monday 19 February

There are approximately 500 new cases of leprosy found each year in Papua New Guinea, and many others are disabled by the disease. Worst still, 25% of all new cases are children. LMNZ has been working closely with TLM PNG in reducing the medical, social and economic burden of leprosy in PNG. Pray for God's provision and guidance in defeating leprosy and transforming lives in PNG.

Tuesday 20 February

Today Tony Wrightson, Programme Consultant, travels on to Papua New Guinea and Bougainville to support projects implementation. Praise God for Tony's diligence and expertise. Pray for God's protection over him as he travels long hours over rough terrain to visit project communities, that God will protect Tony from accidents and diseases.

Wednesday 21 February

Since 1999, LMNZ has been supporting the development of a successful community health programme in Bougainville. This is the final year of our Bougainville Healthy Communities Programme (BHCP). Pray that the programme will continue to flourish, impact and faithfully serve the health needs of the leprosy-affected communities of Bougainville.

Thursday 22 February

This is the second year into implementation of LMNZ's Sustainable Livelihoods Development Project in PNG. People affected by leprosy and disability can receive training on skills like livelihood development, business planning, financial literacy and micro-credit loan and savings. Praise for the progress being made so far, and pray that people affected by leprosy and disability will be able to apply the business principles they have been learning.

Friday 23 February

In PNG and Bougainville, village health volunteers undertook a two week health care training course with Leprosy Mission staff. They are doing incredible work in identifying people with leprosy, and making sure they

receive the full course of multi-drug therapy, the cure for leprosy. Pray that all health volunteers will actively use their newfound knowledge to transform lives in their communities.

Saturday 24 February / Sunday 25 February

Pray that TLM PNG can maintain a good relationship with the government and other partners in implementing new projects. Pray also for God's guidance and strength with the staff in PNG and Bougainville as they go about their daily work. Remember Natalie Smith, TLM PNG Country Leader, and Ruby Mirinka, Programme Director of BHCP.

New Zealand

Monday 26 February

Pray for wisdom and direction for the Leprosy Mission NZ's Management Team; Gillian Whitley, Executive Director; Martin Malkaney, Finance Manager; Sarita Divis, Fundraising Manager; Jasleen Kler and Jasper Oei, Programme Managers. Pray for oneness in hearts and minds as they lead the rest of the team in supporting people affected by leprosy.

Tuesday 27 February

The LMNZ's Management Team and Board Members have been having regular meetings to finalise the new Leprosy Mission NZ Strategic Plan 2019-2023. Pray for God's wisdom and a strong consensus as LMNZ senior staff members and Board members seek God's will for the organization for the next five years.

Wednesday 28 February

Pray today for LMNZ Supporter Services team Kiri de Beer, Ngaira Lynch and Carolyn Currie. Praise God for their diligence, dedication and positive attitude in helping and maintaining good relationships with our supporters. Pray for God's wisdom and strength as they go about their daily work.